

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 /066 W

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R 100821Z JUN 75 ZDS

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4307/4308/4327

INFO USIA WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COMUSMACTHAI

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 MANILA 7941/1

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, IEA/L, IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS.

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, RP

SUBJ: REMARKS ON LEAVING MANILA, JUNE 9 - ASST. SECRETARY HABIB

1. ON DEPARTURE JUNE 9, THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY PHILIP C. HABIB AND THE PRESS.

2. BEGIN TEXT (TRANSCRIPT FROM TAPE).

FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW (STOCKWIN): WHEN YOU WERE IN JAKARTA YOU WERE WIDELY REPORTED, THOUGH I BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOME MISREPORTING, AS SAYING TO ADAM MALIK THAT THE U.S. BASES IN THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES WERE USELESS. COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT ONE?

HABIB: I CERTAINLY CAN. IT IS NOT A QUESTION THAT I WAS NOT CORRECTLY REPORTED. I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING, ADAM MALIK NEVER SAID I SAID ANY SUCH THING, AND WHOEVER DRAFTED THAT ONE WAS SUCKING HIS THUMB. FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW (STOCKWIN): CAN YOU SAY ROUGHLY

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WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY BOUT THE BASES IN BANGKOK AND MANILA?

HABIB: WHAT I HAVE BEEN SAYING FUNDAMENTALLY IS THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO MAINTAIN ITS DEPLOYMENTS AS NECESSARY. AT THE PRESENT TIME THE UNITED STATES MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS IN EAST ASIA HAVE BEEN MORE OR LESS IDENTIFIED. CURRENT CHANGES IN OR ANTICIPATED CHANGES IN THAILAND AND IN TAIWAN AS A RESULT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DECISIONS THAT WERE MADE SOME TIME AGO, WILL BE SUSTAINED. WITH RESPECT TO OTHER BASES, WITH RESPECT TO OTHER DEPLOYMENTS IN THE PACIFIC, THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS TO CHANGE THOSE DEPLOYMENTS.

AS YOU KNOW, AND I THINK YOU KNOW, WHERE OUR FORCES ARE IN GENERAL TERMS, INCLUDING FLEET FORCES, THAT'S WHAT I WAS SAYING ABOUT OUR DEPLOYMENTS. THAT'S WHAT I'VE SAID CONSISTENTLY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE YOU AT ALL TO KNOW THAT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN SAYING, AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN SAYING, SO THERE'S NO NEWS ON WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING. I'VE JUST BEEN, BEING THAT I WAS IN THE AREA, IT WAS, I PRESUME, A MATTER OF SOME INTEREST TO HAVE IT REPEATED WHILE I WAS IN EAST ASIA. BUT THERE IS FUNDAMENTALLY NOTHING NEW IN ANY OF WHAT I'VE JUST SAID.

NOW HAVE WE GOT IT STRAIGHT ABOUT THAT QUOTE OUT OF JAKARTA WHICH WAS SHEER NONSENSE? I NEVER SAID ANY SUCH THING AND HE NEVER SAID I SAID ANY SUCH THING. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT STORY CAME FROM.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN (MICHIIRO SHIRAI): WHAT KIND OF ROLE OF JAPAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN ASIAN REGION DO YOU EXPECT.

HABIB: IN ASIAN WHAT?

YOMIURI SHIMBUN (MICHIIRO SHIRAI): REGION

HABIB: IN THE ASIAN REGION DO I EXPECT? IN JAPAN. NO ONE IS GOING TO EXPECT ANY ROLE FROM JAPAN IN ASIA. JAPAN IS GOING TO PLAY A NATURAL ROLE IN AISA. JAPAN IS THE MOST POWERFUL OF THE EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES ECONOMICALLY, BAR NON. CERTAINLY IT'S AN ALLY OF THE UNITED STATES, WE HAVE A MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITH JAPAN, WE HAVE FORCES DEPLOYED IN JAPAN. JAPAN, YOU ASK ME WHAT ROLE DO
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I EXPECT OR DO WE EXPECT JAPAN TO PLAY: I WOULD SAY THAT WE EXPECT JAPAN TO PLAY THE SAME ROLE THAT JAPAN EXPECTS ITSELF TO PLAY. A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE -- A ROLE FUNDAMENTALLY WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT IN EAST ASIA. NOW NO ONE EXPECTS, LEAST OF ALL, IN MY UNDERSTANDING, DO THE JAPANESE THEMSELVES EXPECT THAT JAPAN IS GOING TO PLAY A SECURITY ROLE, MAJOR SECURITY ROLE OTHER THAN IN TERMS OF ITS GEOGRAPHICAL PRESENCE. BUT JAPAN'S FUNDAMENTAL WEALTH AND THE CAPABILITY THAT JAPAN HAS TO USE THAT WEALTH FOR

GOOD AND FOR GROWTH AND, I THINK, THE EXHIBITED WILLINGNESS OF THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TO USE THAT WEALTH FOR DEVELOPMENT IN EAST ASIA IS WELL KNOWN AND THAT'S WHAT I EXPECT AND THAT'S WHAT MOST PEOPLE IN THIS AREA EXPECT -- THAT THAT WEALTH WILL BE IN A WAY USED FOR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE REGION AS A WHOLE. THAT IS NOT AN EXPECTATION WHICH IS BEYOND THE FEASIBLE. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WOULD DISAPPOINT ANYBODY. AND MY OWN FEELING IS THAT THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT ROLE JAPAN WILL PLAY, WHAT ITS MAJOR ROLE WILL BE IN THIS REGION.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN (MICHIIRO SHIRAI): DO YOU EXPECT JAPAN IN SOME KIND OF ROLE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

HABIB: DO I EXPECT JAPAN TO BEGIN PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE? NO, I DON'T THINK THE JAPANESE HAVE ANY INTENTION OF DOING THAT. AS A MATTER OF FACT NO ONE HAS REALLY ASKED THAT OF JAPAN AND THE QUESTION NEVER HAS ARISEN IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD THAT I KNOW OF.

RPN NEWS (PHILLIP TAN): WHEN YOU MET WITH THE PRESIDENT (MARCOS) A FEW DAYS BACK, WAS THERE ANY UNDERSTANDING FORGED BETWEEN YOU AND THE PRESIDENT IN CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES?

HABIB: I WOULDN'T SAY UNDERSTANDING. I THINK IT CERTAINLY WAS... AH THE PRESIDENT WAS VERY GRACIOUS TO GIVE ME AS MUCH TIME AS HE DID PRIOR TO A BUSY TRIP THAT HE WAS TAKING. AND HE HIMSELF, I THINK, HAS LET IT BE KNOWN THROUGH HIS OWN PRESS OFFICE DISCUSSED A NUMBER OF THINGS. BUT WE WANT#M I WAS HERE NOT TO SETTLE ANYTHING, TO DECIDE ANYTHING, AS I SAID, WHEN I CAME, A LOT OF PEOPLE DID NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT IT'S TRUE, WHAT I CAME TO DO IS TO GET A LITTLE BIT, A CLEARER PERCEPTION OF ASIAN VIEWS AND NATURALLY WHILE I WAS IN THE PHILIPPINES I WAS LOOKING FOR THE PHILIPPINE PERCEPTION, THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S PERCEPTION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE SITUATION NOT ONLY IN THE PHILIPPINES BUT IN THE AREA AS A WHOLE. AND I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED. I DON'T MAKE IT A HABIT OF DISCUSSING ANY DETAILED EXCHANGES THAT I HAVE WITH THE LEADERS OF THE COUNTRIES I VISIT. YOU DON'T EXPECT ME TO DO THAT. I WOULD SAY THAT CERTAINLY PRESIDENT MARCOS MADE CLEAR HIS, AND THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON A RANGE OF ISSUES, AND I LISTENED. UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SAYING, AND I WENT AWAY WITH AT LEAST WHAT I HAD COME TO ACHIEVE -- SOME UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THOSE VIEWS ARE ... THAT ARE NOT FILTERED THROUGH THE OTHER REPORTING CHANNELS TO WHICH I HAVE ACCESS. AT LEAST I GOT IT DIRECT. I ALSO HAD A CHANCE TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. I HAD A CHANCE TO MEET WITH THE DEFENSE SECRETARY. I HAD A CHANCE TO MEET WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND OTHER LEADERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE AS WELL AS ON THE SECURITY SIDE --- INFORMALLY. WE CHATTED A LITTLE BIT, GOT SOME IDEA WHAT'S ON THEIR

MIND, WHAT THE ISSUES ARE, WHAT DIRECTIONS WE'RE ALL MOVING. IT'S SO EASY FOR AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO TALK TO FILIPINOS. WE SPEAK, IT'S NOT SIMPLY THAT WE SPEAK THE SAME LANGUAGE, WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, WE'VE TALKED TOGETHER A LONG TIME. AND IT'S VERY EASY TO DISCUSS ANY SUBJECT, HOWEVER IT COMES OUT, AND THAT REALLY WAS THE BASIS OF THE DISCUSSION THAT I HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT. WE DIDN'T DECIDE. IT'S NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE THOSE THINGS WITH PRESIDENTS.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 100821Z JUN 75 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308
INFO USIA WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSMACTHAI
DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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WASHINGTON POST (DAVID GREENWAY): DAVID GREENWAY ...

HABIB: IF YOU QUOTE ME ON SOMETHING THAT I'VE SAID, I'M NOT GOING TO BE SORRY.

WASHINGTON POST (DAVID GREENWAY): THE PERCEPTION OF ASIAN VIEWS...

HABIB: I KNEW HE WAS GOING TO QUOTE ME ON SOMETHING THAT I'VE SAID...

WASHINGTON POST (DAVID GREENWAY): ...THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO GATHER ON THIS TRIP ... HAVE YOU COULD YOU SUMMARIZE FOR US HOW THE INDOCHINA SETBACK, AS SOME OF US CALL IT...

HABIB: YES, YES, THAT'S WHAT I'VE CALLED IT. THAT'S WHAT IT WAS.

WASHINGTON POST (DAVID GREENWAY): ... HAS AFFECTED THE ASIAN UNCLASSIFIED

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VIEWS?

HABIB: WELL, I THINK THAT, I'VE BEEN ON THE ROAD NOW FOR A LITTLE OVER THREE WEEKS AND I'VE SEEN THE LEADERS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND I WOULD SAY THIS: THAT FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT AT THE OUTSET THAT THERE WAS GOING TO BE SOME KIND OF, YOU KNOW, TOTAL HAND WRINGING AND DESPAIR AND CONSTERNATION ON THE PART OF THE ASIAN LEADERS--THEY'RE MADE OF MORE RESILIENT FABRIC THAN THAT. I THINK THAT THE FIRST SHOCK OF THE SETBACK WAS CLEAR...EVERYBODY FELT AND WE FELT IT IN THE UNITED STATES...NOBODY WAS HAPPY WITH WHAT HAPPENED IN VIETNAM, BUT I THINK THAT CERTAINLY THE ASIAN LEADERS THAT I TALKED TO, I BELIEVE, UNDERSTAND NOW MORE CLEARLY THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE IN THE INITIAL PERIOD FOLLOWING THE VIETNAM DEBACLE, THAT: A) THE UNITED STATES IS NOT JUST SIMPLY WALKING AWAY AND LEAVING ASIA; B) THE UNITED STATES IS NOT TURNING ISOLATIONIST; C) THAT THERE IS A CONSISTENCY TO THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO EAST ASIA; D) THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL SUSTAIN ITS OBLIGATIONS; E) THAT THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND SEEKS TO WORK WITH, IN A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT, THE ASIAN COUNTRIES. I THINK ALSO THAT IT'S QUITE CLEAR THAT THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES THEMSELVES HAVE DETERMINED THE DESIRABILITY OF COORDINATING AND DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PERCEPTION IN A UNIFIED WAY. I THINK THAT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN FRAMEWORK IN THE WAKE OF THE VIETNAM AFFAIR, IT'S FAIR TO SAY, THAT THAT DEVELOPMENT RECEIVED A CERTAIN STIMULUS AS A RESULT OF THE AFFAIR, THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE VIETNAM SETBACK.

IF YOU'LL TAKE A LOOK AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR, WHICH TOOK PLACE NOT LONG AGO, YOU'LL SEE THERE'S A SENSE FOR, A DESIRE FOR COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION WHICH MAY HAVE EXISTED BEFORE, BUT I'M NOT SO SURE THAT IT WAS AS TOTAL IN ITS CONCEPTION AS IT HAS NOW BECOME. SO THAT WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE UNITED STATES DEMONSTRATING TO ITS ASIAN FRIENDS THE CONTINUITY AND CONFIDENCE OF AMERICAN POLICY, THEY TOO, AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK, HAVE TAKEN HOLD OF THEMSELVES AND DEVELOPED AND SOUGHT TO BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT OF WHAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER TO BE AN ASIAN POLICY IN THEIR OWN INTEREST. NOW I HAPPENED TO THINK THAT THERE IS A CONSISTENCY BETWEEN WHAT THE UNITED STATES SEEKS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND WHAT THESE COUNTRIES WOULD BE SEEKING FOR THEMSELVES. I HAPPENED TO BELIEVE THAT A UNITED STATES THAT LOOKS FOR AN ORDERLY

ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN NATIONS WOULD NOT BE DISAPPOINTED AMONG THE
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SOUTHEAST ASIAN FRIENDS WHO SEEK THE SAME THING. I HAPPENED TO
THINK THAT A UNITED STATES THAT CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT IS A STRENGTH WHICH EACH NATION MUST ACHIEVE IF IT IS
TO SURVIVE, THE UNITED STATES FAITH IN THAT ARTICLE, IS EQUALLY
SHARED BY THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. I DON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS
OF IMAGINING THE CONTINUED COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. AND CERTAINLY NOTHING
THAT I HEARD ON MY TRIP FROM ANY OF THE LEADERS THAT I MET WITH
WOULD LEAD ME TO CHANGE THAT OPINION.

WASHINGTON POST (DAVID GREENWAY, FOLLOW-UP): DID ANY OF THE
LEADERS EXPRESSED TO YOU THE FEAR THAT NO MATTER WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE
OR THE PRESIDENT MIGHT LIKE, OR THE ADMINISTRATION MIGHT LIKE, THAT
CONGRESS MIGHT...

HABIB: WELL EVERYBODY IS AWARE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT CONSISTS OF AN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE AS WELL AS A JUDICIAL
BRANCH. NOW EVERYBODY IN THE WORLD UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE HAS
BEEN A RISE IN LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH
HAS BEEN EXERCISED IN CERTAIN MATTERS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN POLICY
THAT ARE IN A WAY, I WOULD SAY, NEW, AS MUCH AS I WOULD SAY, IN-
FLUENTIAL. NOW, OF COURSE PEOPLE TALK TO ME ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT,
BUT THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF THINGS HAPPENING WHICH WOULD DEMONS-
TRATE CLEARLY WHAT ONE HOPES IS GOING TO BE TRUE IN AMERICAN FOREIGN
POLICY IN THIS POST-VIETNAM PERIOD. AND THAT IS, THAT YOU'LL GET
A RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THAT DEGREE OF BIPARTISANSHIP IN FOREIGN POLICY
WHICH WOULD PERMIT FOREIGN POLICY TO GO FORTH, AS IT IS CONSTI-
TUTIONALLY SUPPOSED TO GO FORTH. THAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE
IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF FOREIGN POLICY AND THE ROLE OF
THE CONTRESS IN ITS ADVISE AND CONSENT AND ITS LEGISLATIVE RESPON-
SIBILITIES AND ITS BUDGETARY RESPONSIBILITIES WOJLD BE EXERCISED
AS CALLED FOR. NOW THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT PEOPLE WONDER
WHAT THAT RELATIONSHIP IS GOING TO BE, AND IN MY OWN LITTLE WAY,
I HAVE TRIED TO REASSURE THEM THAT I THOUGHT THAT THAT RELATION-
SHIP WOULD BE A CONSTRUCTIVE ONE. NOW I HAVE SPENT A LOT OF TIME
ON THE HILL TESTIFYING AND I DON'T HAVE ANY QUESTION BUT THAT THERE
IS A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY IN THE CONGRESS. SOMETIMES, THEY
DIFFER WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, BUT THERE IS NO LACK OF RESPONSIBILIT
Y.

AND I DON'T THINK THAT IT IS GOING TO BE A PROBLEM THAT IS GOING
TO OVERWHELM OUR ASIAN ALLIES WITH ITS DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE.
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THINGS ARE GOING TO COME UP WHERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND THE LEGISLATIVE IMPINGE UPON THE FOREIGN POLICY DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION. WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? I MEAN WE'VE LIVED WITH THAT FOR A LONG TIME AND WE'LL CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH IT, IT'S ONE OF OUR CHARACTERISTICS.

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ACTION EA-10

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NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 /066 W

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UNCLAS FINAL SECTION OF 3 MANILA 7941/3

NEW YORK TIMES (ALICE VILLADOLID): THE ASEAN ZONE OF NEUTRALITY IS UP FOR DISCUSSION NOW IN PEKING, MR. SECRETARY. HOW DOES THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STAND ON THIS PROPOSAL?

HABIB: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS, FOR A LONG TIME, TAKEN THE POSITION, VERY SIMPLY, THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT THE DETAILS ON WHAT PEOPLE MEAN WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT THIS. AS YOU MAY KNOW, OVER THE YEARS, THAT THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED SPORADICALLY IN THE ASEAN CONTEXT, IT HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED IN TERMS OF ITS PRECISE POINTS. WHAT DOES IT MEAN WITH RESPECT TO SUCH AS PASSAGE, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN WITH RESPECT TO SUCH THINGS AS BASES? SO THAT IT HAS NEVER, THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER IN PRINCIPLE FLATLY OPPOSED THIS OR MADE ANY CLEAR DETERMINATION

OF ITS POINT OF VIEW. WHAT WE ARE DOING IS SIMPLY WAITING TO SEE
HOW THE ASEAN COUNTRIES DEFINE IT THEMSELVES, AND SORT IT OUT THEM-
SELVES. I THINK THERE'S PROBABLY GOING TO BE OTHER MEETINGS OF
THE ASEAN GROUP SOMETIME THIS YEAR AND THEY HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT
IT. NOW WE'LL SEE A LITTLE BIT MORE HOW ASEAN ITSELF FORMULATES
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ITS VIEWS. WHEN THEY DO, THE UNITED STATES ALWAYS PAYS ATTENTION
TO THE VIEWS OF THE ASEAN GROUP. WE CONSIDER THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE
ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN NATIONS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PAY ATTENTION
TO ITS VIEWS OR AT LEAST CONSIDER ITS VIEWS. BEYOND THAT, I CAN'T
COMMENT SPECIFICALLY ON THE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME AS YET.

I'LL TAKE ONE MORE QUESTION AND THEN I AM AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO
BEAR WITH MY DEPARTURE.

CBS NEWS (GABBY TABUNAR): WHAT OF THE POINT THAT WAS TAKEN UP
BY THIS FIVE-NATION GROUP, THE ASEAN, WITH REGARDS TO THE PROPOSAL
TO ESTABLISH A ZONE OF PEACE AND NEUTRALITY? IT CONCERNS THE BASES
IN THE TWO MEMBER COUNTRIES -- THAILAND AND THE PHILIPPINES -- AND
THEY SAID THESE HAD TO BE PHASED OUT.

HABIB: WELL THAT IS NOT WHAT THE ASEAN GROUP SAYS PER SE. BUT
LET ME TAKE THE PROBLEM OF THOSE TWO BASES, I PRESUME THAT IS WHAT
YOUR QUESTIONS IS. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS AND HAVE FOR
SOME TIME IN THAILAND, BEEN PHASING DOWN OUR DEPLOYMENTS THERE.
THAT WILL CONTINUE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THESE MATTERS WITH
THE GOVERNMENT IN BANGKOK, AS HAS ALREADY BEGUN. AND THERE IS NO
PROBLEM THERE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND INDICATED THAT WHEN I
WAS THERE -- THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE. NOW IT IS ALSO
TRUE THAT IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE SUBJECT OF THE U.S. BASE PRESENCE
AND THE BASE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN UP FOR DISCUSSION FOR SOME TIME.
THIS IS NOT A NEW SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND
THE UNITED STATES. IT GOES BACK QUITE A WHILE, AND THE PROCESS OF
DISCUSSION REQUIRES CERTAIN EXAMINATION, CERTAIN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS--
NOW THAT PROCESS HAS BEGUN, AND (IN FACT) IT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR
SOME TIME. NOW, IT IS EXPECTED, AS I THINK IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, THA

T
SOMETIME IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE
PHILIPPINES WILL COME TOGETHER AND DISCUSS IN A MORE SPECIFIC, AND
MAYBE MORE PRECISE MANNER, THE BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE TERMS
AND THE CONDITIONS THEREOF. NOW I WOULD EXPECT THAT THAT WOULD TAKE
PLACE, IF EVERYTHING GOES AS SCHEDULED, SOMETIME THIS YEAR, I
THINK THAT IS WHAT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY BOTH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERN-
MENT AND BY OUR OWN EMBASSY HERE. NOW THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY
DIFFICULTY -- EITHER ON THE SIDE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OR ON
THE SIDE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT -- TO BEGIN, THE DISCUSSION
AND I WOULD SAY THAT YOU ALL, AS OBSERVERS, WOULD PROBABLY BE WATCHIN
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THAT WITHIN SOME REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME AND REPORTING ON IT, I
HOPE AS THOROUGHLY AS YOU WOULD NORMALLY DO. BUT THERE ISN'T ANY
PROBLEM WITH THE DISCUSSIONS. NOW WHAT COMES OUT OF IT? WHAT IS
THE FINAL SOLUTION? IF WE KNEW THAT NOW, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY
PURPOSE IN DISCUSSIONS. THAT'S THE WHOLE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION.
THOSE DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING ENTERED INTO IN GOOD FAITH BY BOTH THE
UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES, AND BY THE UNITED STATES AND
THAILAND. SO I DON'T SEE, AT THIS STAGE, A PROBLEM OF ANY
MAGNITUDE BECAUSE ALL HAVE AGREED TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF DISCUSSION,
TO SORT OUT THE DIFFICULTIES; AND WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE
HOW THOSE DISCUSSIONS DEVELOP. OKAY?

I THINK I'VE GIVEN YOU ENOUGH TO SATISFY A SLEEPY ... WHAT IS
TODAY, MONDAY AFTERNOON IN MANILA. I AM DELIGHTED TO HAVE BEEN HERE,
I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO BEGIN MY WAY BACK HOME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
PURNELL

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